(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in the Report and action taken thereon;

(c) whether an active involvement of middlemen in the defence purchases had been noticed in the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to bring transparency in the defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is being examined.

(c) and (d) The instructions of 17.4.1989 issued by Ministry of Defence barred the involvement of agents in the purchase of weapons/weapon systems. Further instructions had also been issued on 7.11.1997 by the Ministry of Defence that in all contracts with foreign suppliers, clauses need to be incorporated whereby the seller is required to give an undertaking that they have not engaged any individual or firm, etc. or paid any amount of them for purpose of interceding or facilitating the award of the contract. As and when, any complaint is received in this regard, it is examined and appropriate action taken.

(e) With a view to ensuring high levels of transparency in defence purchases, Government have issued orders, in consultation with the CVC/C&AG, for mandatory and time-bound scrutiny of all major procurements/purchase decisions, involving cost of above Rs. 75 crores, by the C&AG and where necessary, by the CVC.

Physically challenged job seekers in A.P.

*496. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of physically challenged job seekers registered in general and special Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on date with details of the visually handicapped, deaf and dumb and orthopaedically handicapped, exchange-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of such persons who were provided with suitable jobs during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide gainful employment to all the registered physically challenged persons in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The number of physically challenged job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges (including special employment exchanges) in the State of Andhra Pradesh (exchange-wise & category-wise) as on 31.12.1999 (latest available) is furnished in the statement. (*See* below)

The number of physically challenged persons provided jobs through these employment exchanges during 1997, 1998 and 1999 was of the order of 433, 142 and 80 respectively.

Employment Exchanges sponsor candidates against the vacancies notified to them by the employer. The vacancies notified depend on the availability of jobs in Government and the industry. The Government has taken a number of steps to provide gainful employment to physically challenged. Some of these are:

(i) 3 per cent reservation in the identified posts in public sector.

(ii) Conducting skill training through Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnics etc.

(iii) Providing Aids and Appliances.

(iv) Andhra Pradesh Government is also providing self employment loans to handicapped persons; they are also paying unemployment allowance to physically challenged nemployed candidates at the rate of Rs. 75/- per month.

Statement

Number of Physically Handicapped Job-Seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on 31.12.1999.

Sl. No.	Employment Exchanges	Blind	Deaf & Dumb	Ortho-paedics	Respiratory Disorder	Neg. Lep.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Adilabad	93	66	1279	—	—	1438
2.	Anantapur	213	204	1790	—	1	2208
3.	Chittoor	218	243	2385	—	—	2846
4.	Cuddapah	330	211	2341	—	—	2882
5.	Eluru	201	114	2284	—	2	2601
6.	Guntur	212	55	3271	—	1	3539
7.	Hyd. (C&T)	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Hyd. (L)	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Hyd. (P&E)	95	28	789	—	8	920
10.	Kakinada	146	171	2620	2	—	2939
11.	Karimnagar	262	248	2502	—	12	3024
12.	Khammameth	75	72	1264	—	—	1411
13.	Kurnool	211	65	1895	—	4	2175
14.	Mahaboobnagar	317	198	2014	—	28	2557
15.	Nalgonda	214	92	2051	29	3	2389
16.	Nellore	270	191	2230	17	—	2708
17.	Nizamabad	143	106	1219	—	—	1468
18.	Ongole	129	43	1531	—	1	1704
19.	Sangareddy	185	162	2169	—	9	2525
20.	Rangareddy	114	70	1168	—	4	1356
21.	Srikakulam	423	471	2421	—	8	3323
22.	Vijayawada	250	130	1993	—	—	2373
23.	Vishakhapatnam (C)	111	107	1908	—	5	2131
24.	Vishakhapatnam (T&US)	234	369	1745	11	44	2403
25.	Vishakhapatnam (Steel plant)	1	12	68	—	—	81
26.	Vizianagaram	169	102	1730	—	—	2001
27.	Warangal	136	160	1764	—	—	2060

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Hyd. (PH)*	789	1000	3525	—	386	5700
29.	UEB Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	UEB Thirupathy	16	2	166	—	—	184
31.	UEB Waltair	21	7	186	—	—	214
	TOTAL	5578	4699	50308	59	516	61160

*Special Employment Exchange for physically handicapped.

Corruption in Kendriya Bhandars

†*497. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption on massive scale in the Kendriya Bhandars;

(b) if so, whether any remedial step has been taken by Government to improve the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Complaints are received from time to time alleging corruption in the Kendriya Bhandar. However, when any complaint is received either by Government or Kendriya Bhandar, it is duly investigated by its Chief Vigilance Officer and appropriate action is taken against the concerned employee(s) and/or the suppliers as the case may be. With a view to improve Kendriya Bhandar's perfomance and ensuring transparency and accountability, following steps have been taken:

(i) The Board of Directors of Kendriya Bhandar has formulated a Purchase Policy to bring transparency in the procurement of goods.

(ii) Computer software programme has been installed in Head

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.